

Immigration Policy

- As long as the Statue of Liberty stands in New York Harbor, I intend to honor the words on its base.
- I have had personal experience with the current immigration system and its inequalities, inequities, and mis-administration, as my son-in-law strove to become an American citizen. He is now naturalized, but only through the perseverance of our daughter, spending thousands of dollars, and good luck has that come to pass. I have seen first-hand how well intentioned persons can be thwarted by the system and eventually give up.
- Foremost, the policy has to be humane, recognizing that impoverished people, with families, who are victims of US policy, are who we are talking about. We need to have practical solutions – just do the math and one can see how mass deportations and giant walls may satisfy our inner greed, but would require inordinate expenditures and catastrophic disruption of families and even our economy.
- I am particularly opposed to the securing of our borders with initiatives such as a giant wall. President Reagan (no hero of mine, but often quoted by those of the other party) said “Tear down this Wall, Mr. Gorbachev” referring to the Berlin wall, yet that is exactly the opposite of what his political descendents are advocating.
- We should not criminalize or imprison undocumented immigrants by reason of their status. The appropriate remedy is to provide due process to fairly determine if those apprehended can qualify for legal status, and deportation, under humane conditions, with encouragement to apply for legal status, for those who do not presently qualify.
- Immigration laws and regulations should not be permitted to separate parents from their children. In a nation that often preaches about “family values,” this should be beyond question.
- It is unrealistic and dangerous to liberty to attempt to round up and deport 12 million or so undocumented immigrants. Better to give them a reasonable opportunity to become legal residents and then citizens, so that we can better enforce our labor laws, ensure that they pay their fair share of taxes and otherwise meet the responsibilities of citizenship, than to maintain their

current status as undocumented. Let's focus on addressing the causes of unlawful immigration, not imposing unrealistic "round-ups" that will threaten the liberties of all.

- The most effective way to stop the flow of illegal immigration is not to punish the victims of U.S.- corporate policy. The most effective way is to stop the policy. Let's repeal NAFTA, CAFTA, Fast Track and other corporate globalization policies. Let's stop using our tax dollars to subsidize corporate agribusiness and promote poverty in Latin America, and start using them to help reward environmentally responsible family farmers here at home, and to favor policies that will raise labor standards worldwide. Let's turn off the "magnets" for illegal immigration, by punishing the *employers* who seek to undermine our *labor* and *minimum wage* laws, and resist unionization, by exploiting undocumented immigrants.